

Press Release



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For Immediate Release

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U.S. Army Hosting “Makers and Military Merge” Panel at Inaugural Maker Faire Detroit “Can-Do Camp”

Kickoff to Maker Faire Detroit to discuss new economic future

U.S. ARMY DETROIT ARSENAL, WARREN, MI – Following years of successful events in California, Makers – enthusiasts who creatively combine technology know-how to solve problems and discover opportunities – are converging in Michigan for the inaugural Maker Faire Detroit July 31-Aug. 1.

Maker Faire Detroit is a two-day festival being held at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn where Makers from all over the country will participate in displays of creativity and discovery.

To kick-off Maker Faire Detroit, organizers are holding the first-ever “Detroit Can-Do Camp” Thursday July 29 and the U.S. Army is playing a key role. Can-Do Camp is a full-day affair at Detroit’s Eastern Market, a special day for Makers to explore the do-it-yourself mindset and their ability to re-invent the way things are done.

At the Detroit Can-Do Camp, Makers will connect with each other and learn more about their own tech and creative communities. From 1:30 to 3 p.m. that day, the U.S. Army will host a panel discussion for Makers titled “Makers and Military Merge.”

Michigan boasts a deep talent pool of scientists, researchers and engineers, and their forefathers are the people that put the world on wheels and armed the Arsenal of Democracy during WWII.

Today, the U.S. military, businesses and academic institutions are working together on a new economic future for the country – and Makers can play a key role. U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) is the only defense-related government organization participating in Maker Faire Detroit.

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The “Military and Makers Merge” panel includes:

- Moderator Paul Skalny – U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) National Automotive Center
- Dr. Gerhard Schmidt, Ford Motor Co. (large business)
- Aaron Crumm, Adaptive Materials (small business)
- Ken Rogers, Automation Alley (connections)
- Dr. Subrata Sengupta, University of Michigan (academia)
- Dr. Grace Bochenek, U.S. Army TARDEC (military)

RDECOM will bring a cross-section of new and emerging technologies to the Army Technology Zone. Several RDECOM research, development and engineering centers will support the event with research technology, including: visual training and multi-touch enabled technologies, armor materials, exothermic reactions and the latest in Soldier rations.

RDECOM’s TARDEC, headquartered in Warren, Mich., will display the next generation of military vehicles, advances in energy storage devices, the latest robotics, and will conduct an interactive robotics competition for Maker Faire participants.

For more information on Maker Faire Detroit, visit: <http://makerfaire.com/detroit/2010/>

ABOUT TARDEC

Headquartered at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, MI, TARDEC is the Nation's laboratory for advanced military automotive technology and serves as the Ground Systems Integrator for all DOD manned and unmanned ground vehicle systems. With roots dating back to the World War II era, TARDEC is a full life-cycle, systems engineering support provider-of-first-choice for all DOD ground combat and combat support weapons, equipment and vehicle systems. TARDEC develops and integrates the right technology solutions to improve Current Force effectiveness and provides superior capabilities for Future Force integration. TARDEC’s technical, scientific and engineering staff lead cutting-edge research and development in Ground Systems Survivability; Power and Mobility; Intelligent Ground Systems; Force Projection; and Vehicle Electronics and Architecture. TARDEC is a major research, development and engineering center for RDECOM and an enterprise partner in the TACOM LCMC.

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